

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 25-45 are pending.

Claim 30 stands objected to for a minor informality. Applicants have amended claim 30 to eliminate this informality.

Claims 25-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Gotoh. Applicants respectfully traverse this art grounds of rejection.

With respect to claim 25, the Examiner indicates that “the data block having first information including recordation status indicating recorded areas and non-recorded areas of the data area,” reads on element 113 in FIG. 1; and that “second information including a first pointer pointing to an address where the first information is recorded,” in claim 25 reads on element 103 in FIG. 1.

FIG. 1 of Gotoh illustrates the entire data recording area 100 of a recording medium. As such, it is unclear that elements 103 and 113 in FIG. 1 comprise a data block. Furthermore, as the volume structure area 103 comes before the space bit map area 113, and the Examiner is attempting to read the second information on the volume structure area 103, it is readily apparent that Gotoh fails to meet the limitation that “the data block includes a plurality of sectors and the second information is recorded in a last sector of the data block,” as recited in claim 25.

Therefore, claim 25 is not anticipated or rendered obvious to one skilled in the art by Gotoh.

Independent claims 31 and 34 include similar limitations to those discussed above with respect to claim 25. Therefore, these claims are likewise patentable over Gotoh.

Claims 27-30, 32-33, and 35-45, dependent upon one of the independent claims, are patentable for the reasons stated above with respect to the independent claims as well as on their own merits.

### **CONCLUSION**

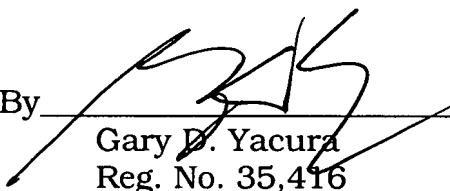
In view of above remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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